scope and establishment of such regions is under consultation with stakeholders including the State Governments.

Pak stand on tariff relief to Indian items

179. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether even after accepting South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), the Government of Pakistan has been sticking to pre SAFTA trade conditions and has conveyed to SAARC that it will give tariff relief to India on 773 items only and not on 4872 items as agreed under the SAFTA agreement;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir, The notification issued by the Government of Pakistan to give effect to SAFTA Tariff Liberalization Programme from 1st July, 2006 has a rider which states that it would be subject to their Import Policy order under which there is a list of importable items from India which at present has 773 items.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has conveyed to the SAARC Secretariat that the notification with the said rider is against the letter and spirit of the Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), which has been ratified by all member States, including Pakistan, without any reservations. India has consequently requested SAARC for an urgent meeting of the SAFTA Ministerial Council (SMC). SMC is the highest decision making body of SAFTA and under Article 10 of SAFTA, SMC shall be responsible for the administration and implementation of SAFTA Agreement and all decisions and arrangements made within its legal framework.

Intellectual Property Institute at Nagpur

†180. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether Government have decided to open an Intellectual Property Institute at Nagpur;

(b) if so, by when this institute will be opened; and

(c) the details of this institute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) to (c) An Intellectual Property Training Institute (IPTI) was set up at Nagpur in 2002 to train officers of Patents and Trade Marks. The Training Institute is being strengthened and modernized to facilitate better management of IPRs in the country. The Institute is operational.

Steps to attract more FDI

181. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some fresh initiatives have been taken recently to attract more Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of their implementation;

(c) the total FDI inflow into the country during the last three years and the projections of FDI during the current financial year; and

(d) the specific activities/sectors of the economy which are attracting bulk of the FDI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, including the sectoral equity caps and associated procedures, is reviewed on a continuous basis in order to attract more investment in the country. A comprehensive review of the FDI policy was undertaken in January 2006 and the changes notified on 10-2-2006.

(c) FDI inflows depend on various factors both external and internal. Besides the macro-economic environment in the host economy, global economic environment, corporate strategy of the transnational corporation, and economic situation in other FDI destinations play a major role. Total